Newsletter of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club

DECEMBER 2003

Titusville Amateur Radio Club
T. A. R. C
Titusville, Florida

Happy Holidays

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Happy New Year

HAM OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Bob Keim W4TAT for being voted Ham of the year by the TARC membership. Bob has been very active in the club. He and his wife Jackie W4JKF run the Wednesday night 10-meter Mosquito Net (28,333 USB 1900 hrs). Bob was the leading force behind the recent success for all the hams in Brevard County in securing the rights to unimpeded antenna installations. A big hand to Bob.

TARC MEMBERS SUPPORT JAYCEES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

Members of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club participated in the Titusville Jaycees 2003 Christmas Parade on December 13. They were greeted by perfect weather and huge crowds. Many thanks to those who gave their time and effort.

They include: Bud (K4CWG), Sherry (KU4ZO), John (KE4ZPA), Pat (KF4LTY), Bill (N9TN), Bob (N3DMI), Ozzie (N4SCY), Bob (W4TAT), Jackie (W4JKF), Robbie (KI4ASY), Joe (KD4GPF), Gary (W4RBI), Jay (WB4ZWI), Jodi, Pike (W4EPU), Jimmy (KF4ZOL), Judy (N2JY), Art (KC2ENO), Mike (KG4DSG), Stephanie (K4MVO), Hank (AA4HP), Bob (W4YBI), and Linda (KG4YFN).

Two TARC members infiltrated the event. Mike (KG5PCK) drove the truck hauling one of the floats and Barbara (KG4PGK) kept watch from the float itself. At least twice the two were heard working out a problem via their 2 meter handhelds. After the parade, Barbara got quite a scare when her tiny RadioShack HT disappeared. After a frantic search, she found it in the shopping center parking lot. Hooray!

Also, thanks to Warren (W4CEL) for the use of his 2 meter repeater.

NEW CLUB OFFICERS INSTALLED AT THE DECEMBER MEETING/CHRISTMAS PARTY

President: Bud K4CWG
Vice President.: Bob W4TAT
Sec-Tr: Becky KF4HTB

Elected Board of Directors: Bob W4YBI, Hank AA4HP, John KE4ZPA, Pike W4EPU

PRESIDENT'S CORNER
by Bud Hughes W4CWG

Kudos to Bob, W4YBI for assembling and directing the TARC members in the support of the Jaycee sponsored annual Titusville Christmas Parade. Our club responded again to the request for assistance in marshaling the beautiful floats and entrants' in this years Xmas Parade. To the multitude of club members who supported Bob in this endeavor thanks a bunch.

This year's Xmas party held Dec 7th was a huge success and enjoyed by all. Clara KE4YQL and Pike W4EPU were able to acquire the Knights of Columbus facility again this year. To the ladies who participated in the decorating the hall, thanks, and yes the guys deserve a nod for directing the ladies in their efforts to make things just right. Clara deserves a jumbo size hug for all her time and effort. From all of us you get a big thank you.

In accordance with the club by laws the new officers and board members who will serve you in the year 2004 were installed. For

those who were unable to attend the installation of officers the following is provided.

Officers: President: Bud K4CWG, Vice Pres.: Bob W4TAT, Sec-Tr: Becky KF4HTB

Elected Board of Directors: Bob W4YBI, Hank AA4HP, John KE4ZPA, Pike W4EPU

I welcome the new officers and board members and am delighted with the officer/board members who were reelected to serve another year. I solicit the help of all to make this club continue to be enjoyable and for us all to be proud to be a TARC member. My thanks to and the club appreciates the out-going officers and board members who served so well in the year 2003.

Congratulations to Bob W4TAT for winning the Ham of The Year Award. Bob has done so much for not only our club but all hams in Brevard County. Thank you Sir!

Our club has been asked to be the judges for the Titusville Christmas Parade of Boats. This is an annual event and is a lot of fun. All club members are cordially invited to join us around 5:30PM, Saturday Dec. 20th at the East end of Garden on the Bridge that crosses the Indian River. The beautifully decorated boats will sail North from the Kennedy Yacht Club. They will proceed North sailing under the bridge at approximately 6:00-7:00PM. At this point the TARC members will vote among ourselves as to which boat is the best decorated in the three categories. After passing through the bridge the boats will sail approximately ½ mile North, turn around and return to the KYC where the awards will be given to the most decorated boat for each category. Come join us if you can. For information please contact Stephanie K4MVO at 264-2492.

BEARS REPORT
by Stephanie Phillips, K4MVO

Nancy Smith of the Brevard County Office of Emergency Management reminded the BEARS that although it is now is the beginning of the Wildfire Season, there is still a tropical storm brewing: Peter. Last month, six Community Emergency Response Teams from Brevard County participated in the Central Florida training & drill conducted at the Universal Studios in Orlando. There will be another CERT class coming up in Merritt Island, at the beginning of the year, Nancy Smith, Community Coordinator, 637-6670.

There will be an Atlas Rocket Launch, the evening of 12/15/03, (rescheduled to 12/1703 and was successful) and you are encouraged to check into the net on 147.135, 1/2 hour prior to the scheduled launch time. Of course the Launch Information Service and Amateur Television Systems (LISATS) will have a BEARS' Comm Vehicle out on the 528 Causeway, just one mile West of Port Canaveral, and you are welcome to stop by and join in on the fun.

The BEARS' Communication Assistance Teams (CATs) are putting together another trip to Tallahassee EOC. If you are interested in CATs' activities and this trip, please give Roy Hill, W6QCM, a call: 453-4865.

BEARS is going to have a fund raising raffle for an IC706. Tickets will be $5 each, or 5 tickets for $20, and will be available at the TARC January meeting. The winning ticket will be drawn at the March BEARS meeting. Proceeds will go towards maintaining the Comm Vehicles and other BEARS' Equipment, and of course the consortium's liability insurance.

BEARS will have two tables at the upcoming Orlando Ham Fest. In addition to soliciting for donations of equipment to sell, we have decided to try something new this year: We will sell you equipment for you, for a %20 percent commission. You can deliver or we can pick it up before the Fest, you set the price, and we do all the work. Please let me, or Roy Hill know if you're interested in this service. Also let us know if you'd just like to donate some old gear. (No boat anchors, please!) We are a 501,c3, charitable corporation, so your donations may be a tax deduction.
We are planning on hosting an EC Mutual Aid & Interoperability Conference with neighboring county ECs, tentatively planned for March 13th, at the Brevard County EOC. More details will be published as they are developed.

Brevard County ARES/RACES (BEARS) nets on Wednesdays, at 9am and again at 7pm local, on 147.135. Try checking-in using your emergency communications equipment. And don't forget to use the Standard Phonetic Alphabet when giving your call sign, and please give your location.

I hope to see a bunch of you out at this year's Titusville Annual Christmas Parade on the 13th, and of course the Kennedy Point Yacht Club & Marina's Boat Parade of Lights on the 20th. These Public Service Events are excellent opportunities to practice your emergency communications skills and test your equipment. And to just have some fun with TARC members while helping out

your community.
Thank you for your support and I hope you all have a safe and Happy Holiday and a Joyful New Year!

Stephanie Phillips, K4MVO
President, BEARS Inc. 264-2492

EMERGENCY PREPARDNESS TRAINING

Brevard County Emergency Management will be conducting a Community Emergency Response Team training class, starting January 8.

The free 8 week class will prepare participants to form Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTS) and learn skills they would need in the aftermath of a disaster. Nancy Smith, CERT Coordinator, Brevard County Emergency Management points out "The elevation of national threat level this week reiterates the need for all of us to be prepared. Our struggle against terrorism is far from over and we all want to something to help."

Age is NOT a significant factor. One recent graduate was a very young 84 year old lady.

The class will be held Thursdays from 1830 - 2130 at Veteran's Memorial Center located behind the Merritt Square Mall at 400 Sykes Creek Parkway. Bob (W4YBI) and Linda (WG4YFN) Farrington have registered. Why not join them, you won't regret it. The course is open to the first 50 registrants. To register contact Nancy Smith at the Emergency Operations Center, 321-637-6670 or 321-637-4042.

NOVEMBER MINUTES
by Becky Lee KF4HTB

The November meeting was election night. After the usual opening ceremonies the following slate of officers and board members was elected:

President: K4CWG Bud Hughes
V. President: W4TAT Bob Keim
Sec/Treas: KF4HTB Becky Lee

Board Members:
W4YBI Bob Farrington
AA4HP Hank Phillips
KE4ZPA John Renninger
K4EPU Pike Abell

Shaun Williams from the Jaycees asked for the club's assistance with the Christmas parade. He said the routine this year is the same as it has been in years past. Shaun is retiring as president of the Jaycees. The new president is Bob Porter.

Bud K4CWG told the club that one wall of the Jaycees building has been assigned to the club for the purpose of hanging plaques. etc. There was a discussion about what should be hung and how it should be hung so as not to mar the wood paneling.

TREASURER'S REPORT
by Becky Lee KF4HTB

Begin Balance	$1807.27
Deposits	4723.80
Total Income	$ 6531.07
Expenditures	3988.49
Bal 11/30/03	$ 2542.75

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Regular	127
Family	45
Honorary	8
Other	3
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	183

NEW MEMBERS

N9TN	Bill Borgstrom
KC4TCH	Kim Borgstrom
K4WSJ	Robert Husband

RENEWALS

KF4ZOL	J. Edwards
KG4FXR	F. Erskin
AC4WM	M. Mathney
WD8JLT	B. Sonnenberg
K4KON	B. Hoover

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/01	WB4ZUZ	T. Valek
12/02	NE4XT	B. DiMeo
12/07	KU4ZO	S. Hughes
12/08	WN4YKC	D. Hatfield
12/09	KC4VIO	J. Ramos
12/10	W4AHN	A. Marsden
12/11	KU4NR	C. Manion
12/17	KG4WYX	T. Fuller
12/20	KF4QIP	M. Albro
12/20	KE4MWY	D. Chycita
12/20	KE4WW	M. Adams
12/24	N4SCY	O. Osband

ABELL'S ANECDOTES.
By Pike Abell W4EPU

HAM RADIO SAVES CHRISTMAS FOR MILLIONS OF KIDS

Once upon a time, in mid December, a storm developed in the Bering Sea just north of the Aleutian Islands. It proceeded northward and by the time it reached the Bering Strait it had turned into a full blown Willawa. It crossed over the North Pole still packing high winds piling up snow drifts 20 feet high, and more.

The day before the storm arrived Santa had parked his sleigh outside to check its readiness for the upcoming Christmas trip and left it out over night. When he awoke the next morning the sleigh was under a huge snow drift. Santa and his elves worked frantically and dug it out, but the sleigh had been badly damaged by the heavy weight of the snow.

There was not time to make repairs before Christmas. Fortunately all of the reindeers were safe and warm in the barn and the toys were sitting in the warehouse ready to be loaded. Santa was a Novice/Technician plus Amateur operator. Since all other communications were out in the aftermath of the storm , he tuned up on 10 meters and listened on the Novice phone band but heard nothing. He tuned down to the CW portion and faintly heard Mike, a friend of his in Anchorage, Alaska, calling CQ. Santa answered. They exchanged signal reports, RST 449 both ways. Santa proceeded to tell Mike of his predicament. After a difficult schedule Mike finally got the message.

Mike phoned a sleigh maker in Anchorage and explained the situation. The sleigh maker agreed to loan Santa a sleigh. But now, it would apparently be impossible to get it to him in time for Christmas.

Mike wouldn't give up. He phoned the commanding General of the Alaska Air National Guard who had a squadron of C-130s at nearby Elmendorf Air Force Base. Mike asked the General if they could deliver the sleigh to Santa at the North Pole in time for Christmas. After giving it some thought the General said he could, by justifying it as a routine training flight. The sleigh was loaded onto the aircraft. Early the next morning, on the eve of Christmas eve, they were airborne.

Meanwhile, back at the North Pole, the storm had passed. Not knowing what had transpired in Anchorage, Santa was outside his igloo, pondering the thought that he would disappoint a lot of kids this year by not delivering toys. Suddenly he heard the roar of the C-130 overhead. He looked up just in time to see the shiny sleigh fly out of the rear of the aircraft. Almost immediately a huge orange parachute exploded above the sleigh. The sleigh landed right on target near the toy warehouse. The aircraft circled and flew over the drop zone, dipped her wings and Santa saluted. The C-130 disappeared over the horizon.

Santa beckoned the Elves, loaded the sleigh, hooked up the reindeers to the sleigh, and up-up and away they went. They arrived in Florida on Christmas eve and all deliveries were made on time, making lots of kids happy.

And that's how HAM radio once saved Christmas...

Merry Christmas, 73s es 88s

GOOD, OLD THINGS
by Clyde Lee K4EOS

Becky and I are always looking for good, old things which we resell in a number of places. We do this because we enjoy it - plus it keeps the body and mind active, and the extra income helps. An extra plus is that we meet some really wonderful people.

Recently I found a Sanyo 10 transistor radio that I knew to be old as it had no FM band, but AM and 2 short wave bands. After cleaning the battery contacts and adding new batteries, I fired up and was very surprised at the sensitivity on the SW bands using the 12" rod antenna. I listed it on QRZ and found a buyer who said he owned one as a boy and would like to have another. After he received it, he sent the following email which I thought you would enjoy reading.

Hi Clyde, Radio arrived yesterday. It is very nice, just as you said. Thank you very much. I also am listening more now than ever. My first love in radio was bc/swl and still takes most of my time. I am also impressed with the Sanyo's sensitivity. Amazing how well it plays with just the whip antenna on sw. Sure blows away the new little radios, which seem to overload too easily. I've just updated my qrz.com pix with a pix of my shack, if you want to see it. I use my 847 yaesu for most of my swl, although I also have a r1000 Kenwood in the bedroom, on it's own longwire (approx 400 foot). Like the Kenwood because it has a sleep timer, along with being a great and easy to use receiver. Don't get on the air much, esp. with the high bands being so poor. Love chasing the dx and cw work here. Getting a lot less crowded on the

cw subbands lately, as fewer and fewer hams are using it. Also do qrp work, and six meter aurora when it is open. Am a member of the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Soc. and set up every year at Eagle Harbor, Mich, on Lake Superior. Loads of fun, and this was our third year. Go with N8MR and his wife, Lynetrte. She has some cool pix on her webside <http://www.kc8nah.com/Interests/illw03.htm>. I am the founder of the event but now let the girls do most of the operating, as they create incredible pile ups, and I'd rather do the antenna work. Make my living here doing satellite and cable work. Has been very cold here, so sure was nice to come home and find the little Sanyo in the mail box. Put some batts in it and sat in nice warm chair. Don't watch much boob tube here. Do it all day, so radio is king here. God Bless all of you this season, and very nice to meet you. Vince KA8FFM.

In a later email he asked for a copy of our newsletter and for an application to join our club. He also asked if there are any repeaters on Echo link in the area.

FOR SALE OR TRADE

YAESU FT 901 in good condition asking $250.00 for it. K4CWG Bud Hughes

Iron Horse Pick Up Truck Antenna mounts New, still in package. Fits in side bed holes. With 3/8-24 Antenna Threads. Ideal for HAMSTICK or IRON HORSE antennas. $20.00 each. N3DMI Bob Green 637-3469

CLUB OFFICERS

President:
Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779

Vice-President:
Bob Keim W4TAT 383-1509

Secretary/Treasurer:
Becky Lee KF4HTB 267-9375

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Pike Abell W4EPU 269-4208
Bob Farrington W4YBI 633-5664
Hank Phillips AA4HP 264-2492
John Renninger KE4ZPA 267-9431

CLUB INFORMATION

Meetings: Monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 1900 at the Jaycee Building, N. 405 Singleton Ave.

Next Meeting Date: 01/27/2004

Newsletter Editor: N3DMI Bob Green. N3DMI@IJ.NET
Deadline for next newsletter is 01/16/2004

NETS

Red Eye	Sun 0600	7.228 mHz
Traders	Mon 1000	146.91 mHz
Friendship	Tues 1830	146.91 mHz
Mosquito	Wed 1900	28.333 mHz
VIP	Thur 1000	146.91 mHz
BEARS	Wed 0900	147.135 mHz
BEARS	Wed 1900	147.135 mHz
IRARC	Wed 1915	145.37 mHz

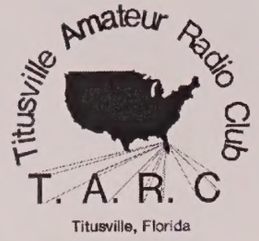
REPEATER CUSTODIAN BOARD

Les Griner K4SJC (146.94) 267-1565
Warren Murray W4CEL (146.97) 638-5476
Mike Hensley W4LOV (444.15) 639-1553
Ozzie Osband N4CSY (145.09) Packet Rose Node 794-0215
Ken Denman KD4HNW(146.775) 269-5711

HAMFESTS

1/10/04	Boca Raton, FL
1/10/04	Ft. Myers, FL
1/31/04	Arcadia, FL
2/7-8/04	Miami, FL
2/10-15/04	Christmas, FL
2/13-15/04	Orlando, FL
2/21/04	Sebring, FL
3/6/04	Pt. Charlotte, FL
3/20/04	Ft. Walton Bch, FL
3/20/04	Stuart, FL
3/27/04	New Pt. Richey, FL
3/27/04	Plantation, FL

Congratulations to Ed Summersett (WA3FKC) on the conclusion of his successful year as Commodore of the Waterway Radio and Cruising Club. The club counts more than 1,200 members from New York to the Turks and Caicos Islands. It uses ham radio to communicate weather conditions, position reports and float plans for members cruising in their private water craft. For more info try: www.jsttorm.com/wrcc



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY JANUARY 27, 2004